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Kashmir Accord: A Retrospect

By DEWAN BERINDRANATH

Now that over 15 months have passed since the Centre-State accord on Kashmir came into being, one can have a close look at the undoubted success of this happy but rather unorthodox experiment in political understanding born out of the extremelybold initiative the Centre had taken. The step also marked the end of bitterness and dissension among the ranks of progressive, secular and democratic forces in the State. While the accord was widely hailed not only in India but also in various parts of the world as an example of a high degree of political realism shown by the national and State leadership, it was by no means an easy task to accomplish and subsequently implement it, It not only needed a great deal of trust and goodwill on all sides but also on equal degree of high political skill to make creative use of various forces constituting political structure of the State. To quote an example, the mere fact that the Congress legislative party enjoying a preponderant majority in the State Assembly had decided to entrust Sheikh Abdullah with the administration of the states, was in itself a very unorthodox step creating doubts in some minds about its efficacy. Never perhaps in Indian political history had a political party enjoying a clear majority in the State Assembly voluntarily abdicated power in the interest of wider national and regional considerations. Equally significant was the fact that one of the main architects of the accord was Syed Mir Qasim, the Congress Chief Minister. His gesture was rightly hailed as a very noble example of a political leader going out of position of power for the sake of broader national objectives.

Nevertheless, there were problems of no small magnitude. There were elements from both sides which had strong doubts about the actual implementation of the accord. Occasionally a few controversies did erupt between the Congress Party which continues to enjoy very clear majority in the State legislature and some of the workers supporting the new Chief Minister. As the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, herself pointed out during her visit to Srinagar last year, such controversies were not only inevitable in a democratic system of working but in a way contributed to the health and vitality of our democratic framework. More important than these controversies would be the fact that the parties concerned continued to remain dedicated to certain commonly-cherished ideals and worked within the frame-work of nationally-accepted policies.

One can look back with satisfaction that these expectations have indeed come true. There has not only been a high degree of understanding between the national and state leadership, but also a good deal of creative cooperation has been achieved between State Congress and the national Conference, the party now headed by Sheikh Abdullah. Realising the inevitability of certain problems cropping up between different

(Contd. on page 2)

Words to Remember

[Excerpts from the speeches of the Prime Minister]

Addressing the AICC session, the Prime Minister said the constitutional changes were intended to achieve true justice and equality for the common man. There was no change in the basic philosophy but socialism was sought to be strengthened.

"Our method has always been of talking, of negotiating, and as far as possible, of conciliation in national politics and international policies. It was India which had taken every initiative to befriend other countries regardless of provocative acts or campaigns against it in world capitals and international forums. We have stick to our path. We want friendship."

In the economic sphere too, there had been no policy departures—the aims remained the same. Some adjustments became necessary, at times, to meet a particular situation to get over a partions difficulty.

The Congress Party should be clear about what they were fighting for and fighting against. The right was for the common man in the country, and the world.

India would not follow policies that were convenient to others, politically or economically.

x x x

In the 1971 elections, the people had given a massive two-thirds majority to the Congress Party's programme, which clearly envisgaed "changing some parts of the Constitution, which were coming in the way of fuller democracy and fuller life for the people."

It was not the constitution which was coming in the way; but interpretation of it by some people. This was what had to be changed. The proposed amendments would in no way affect its basic concept.

The idea of amending the constitution was not new. Amendments had been taking place from the beginning. Perhaps the first amendment was introduced a year after the constitution came into force.

No two countries had identical constitutions or democratic structures. But each claimed its system to be superior than the other.

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Suffering is the law of human beings; war is the law of the jungle. But suffering is infinitely more powerful than the law of the jungle for converting the opponent and opening his ears, which are otherwise shut, to the voice of reason.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY June 13, 1976

GOOD OPPORTUNITY

Curbs imposed on public meetings in Tamil Nadu following the declaration of President's rule are being slowly relaxed.

The CPM was allowed to hold a meeting in a City Hall "without any condition," according to the Marxist leader. Mr. Ramamurthi himself.

Congressmen must take the opportunity to hold public meetings throughout the State on an unprecedented scale to educate the people about the Prime Minister's 20 point programme. (A review of achievements under the programme was serialised in our journal.)

From June 15, the Congress Party will be launching its membership Campaign. This will be the right occasion to take to the villages (preferably by Padayatra) the message of the Prime Minister.

The period will also conicide with the anniversary of the declaration of emergency. There arestill some doubting Thomases, especially among the educated leisurely classes, who are reluctant to realise the achievements under the emergency.

The problems before the people, especially in the drought affected areas are many. The TNCC President, Mr. Karuppiah Moopanar has said that during his recent tour of five or six districts, over 3000 petitions have been presented to him. Similar petitions are given to the Governor, the Advisers and top officials when they visit the districts.

Thus high hopes have been raised among the poorer and weaker sections of the people. If Congressmen fail now to rise to the occasion, another opportunity may not come to build up the party from the roots.

Let as talk less and work more.

From page 1

Kashmir Accord: A Retrospect

segments of political forces behind the accord, it was decided in July last year to form a high level coordinating committee to iron out all such issues. The coordinating committee consisting of representatives of the State Government and the Congress Legislative Party, also included Shri Om Mehta, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. The success of the working of the committee could be considered an extremely good omen for the political development of the State.

Seen from a broader point of view the success of the accord provides a shining example of how mutuality of understanding based upon the acceptance of commonly cherished secular and democratic ideals can indeed contribute to the growth of healthy, democratic institutions. In other words, Kashmir provides an example of how different political parties continuing to compete for power can work within a broad framework of national objectives and yet not only contribute effectively to political stability in the State but also unleash a process of all-round economic development and reconstruction. The Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah was only recently in New Delhi discussing mainly with various national leaders developmental problems being faced by the State Government. He has been assured the fullest cooperation for various developmental projects vital for the economic well being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Political observers have noted the fact that Sheikh Abdullah has given a clarion call to his own followers to implement the 20-Point economic programme of the Prime Minister as a panacea to end the evils of poverty and economic backwardness.

The recently held Jammu Session of the National Conference has proved the point that given mutual goodwill on both sides, there is no room for doubts and misgivings about the success of the polititical experiment involving what may be called co-existence of two political parties cooperating and competing with each other at the sametime. Consolidation of secular and democratic forces resulting in the total isolation of reactionary elements has gone a step further with the emergence of this new pattern of power in the State. A great deal of credit in this respect should go undoubtedly to the State leadership headed by Sheikh Abdullah, a proven patriot whose association with the struggle for Indian freedom is perhaps longer than any other living political leader in the country today. Kudos at the same time are also due to the State Congress Leaders working under the guidance and inspiration of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, extending their fullest cooperation to the State Government.

The recent visit of the Prime Minister to Jammu is seen in this regard as a major step forward in a closer understanding among various segments of democratic opinion in the State. The success of the accord itself owes a great deal to the keen personal initiative the Prime Minister has been taking for the last three years in making a bold break-through putting to a complete end the bitterness and controversies of the past. It was through this bold initiative taken by the Prime Minister and responded in equal measure by Sheikh Abdullah that misunderstanding of the past were removed, and the entire leadership of the State brought into the national mainstream.

Looking back once again, over what happened in February last year, one is reminded of the fact that the accord had evoked considerable opposition from all sorts of interested quarters, especially reactionary vested interests both in the State and also in other parts of the country. These forces of reaction and communism were feeling perturbed over the fact that they would no longer be able to exploit doubts, differences and controversies which had been lingering on for the last so many years. Equally distressing were some elements in Pakistan who felt that the accord had completely blunted the edge of the anti-Indian tirade which had been going for the two and a half decades. The positive reaction the Centre-State accord evoked in various parts of the world, especially in West Asia further proved the point that the so-called Kashmir issue has not only been settled juridically when the State acceded to India in 1947, but even internal problems between the Centre and the State leadership have now completely been solved. I remember my tour of West Asian countries such as Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt immediately after the signing of the accord. The reaction everywhere among political circles in these countries was highly favourable with a large number of politica leaders and commentators hailing it as a very bold step forward for the consolidation of forces in India This very fact had at that time unnerved some of the people in Pakistan who thought that this would deprive them of a convenient talking point against India.

But looking at the subsequent developments it could be said with confidence that the accord did indeed contribute, although indirectly, to the easing of tensions and hastening of process of normalisation between India and Pakistan. The recent Indo-Pak accord for normalisation is a product of bold initiative taken by India to settle all outstanding issues with her neighbours. It is also n reflection of a new sense of realism in Pakistan of the inevitability of the two countries living together in peace and friendship. The end of enternal controversy in Kashmir could be considered an important factor in bringing about this welcome sense of realism across the borders.

—

Ladders And Scaffolds Outmoded

SCISSORS MANLIFT can take the place of unstable ladders and expensive scaffolds for work at heights up to 36 feet (11 metres). This serial work platform wil quickly raise several men and up to one metric ton of equipment or supplies in a countless variety of situations, according to the U.S manufacturer.

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—Highway overpass workers grinding and coating columns and overpass surfaces.

—Overhead sprinkler installers, tripling the normal speed of installation.

—Air-conditioning employees doing overhead duct work, maintenance and installation.

—Painters, brick masons, and welders.

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PRIME MINISTER MRS. GANDHI'S VISIT TO USSR

Leonid Brezhnev: Cooperation With India Is A Constant Policy

By YURI YURIEV

At a dinner given in the Kremlin in honour of the Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Leonid Brezhnev reaffirmed his statement made at the 25th CPSU Congress that political and economic cooperation with India was the Soviet Union's constant policy.

Welcoming Mrs. Indira Gandhi as the leader of a major Asian state and a good friend of the USSR, L.I Brezhnev expressed confidence that this visit would become an important stage in raising the level of cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

The General Secretary's confidence is based on the past experience of the successful development of Soviet-Indian relations which, as Mrs. Indira Gandhi stated in the Kremlin, have withstood the test of time and give others an example of good relations between states with differing social systems. It is relevant to recall that the Soviet Union has always been demonstrating an understanding of India's needs and requirements and has done a lot to enable the newly-emerged republic to advance speedier towards economic independence overcoming the difficulties inherited from the colonial past. The public sector in the economy, set up with the USSR'S assistance, is a major tool in the hands of the Indian Government for the further development of the whole economy.

The line of establishing a public sector, worked out by Jawaharlal Nehru and carried out by the Indian National Congress has justified itself and is now bringing good results.

The General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee also noted in his speech that the action taken by the Indian Government against internal and external reactionaries was fully understood in the Soviet Union. The onslaught of reaction was firmly rebuffed by all Indian democratic forces which fact created prerequisites for the implementation of the 20-point programme of socio-economic transformations adopted by the Republic's government.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi pointed out in her speech that "the birth and development of socialism in the Soviet Union has been a major determining factor in shapping the course of world history."

Mr. Leonid Brezhnev Greeting Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

New Scope Acquired By Non-Alignment

By VLADIMIR SIMONOV, APN Political Correspondent

Mrs. Indira Gandhi's impressive speech at a Kremlin Dinner on Tuesday gives much food for thought not only to chroniclers of Soviet-Indian relations but also to historians of the policy of non-alignment. The biography of India, briefly recapitulated by the Prime Minister in her toast, helps better to understand the forces and sentiments which generated the Nehru-Nasser Doctrine.

History's first "Non-white" colony to win independence perhaps experienced the same degree of hatred for colonialism as the Soviet Union, with its record of two world wars, did for militarism. In order to make first steps towards progress and avoid falling into the Western trops of military blocs some guiding star was needed which the architect of national independence Nehru saw in the Doctrine of Non-alignment. As his daughter reaffirmed today, this was essentially a protest against attempts forcibly to hitch the country to imperialist structures in Asia.

On the other hand, the socialist system which took shape in the same years resolutely supported this anti-imperialist orientation of new policy with its prestige and economic might. The Indian Prime Minister cannot be reproached for eulogising when she pays tribute to the foresight of the Soviet Union which did not hesitate to recognise the policy of non-alignment, which was later recorded, in particular, in the Soviet-Indian Treaty of peace, Friendship and Cooperation. It needed the historical optimism of socialist philosophy and its conviction in the necessity of giving all-round support to the forces of national liberation to evaluate from the outset non-alignment as a potentially important and profoundly-anti-imperialist factor of world politics.

COMMON AIMS, THEIR OWN POLICIES

Today this potential has become a reality. The two leaders noted with satisfaction in their Kremlin dialogue the vitality of the non-alignment movement and the palpable contribution it is making to the improvement of the international climate. Leonid Brezhnev sincerely welcomed the increased role of the third world in world politics.

In the view of the two leaders, the new scope acquired by the non-alignment movement is evidence that its principles have withstood the test of time. Leonid Brezhnev and Indira Gandhi could speak about this with full knowledge of the matter, because both countries, as indeed the entire socialist world and the group of non-aligned countries as a whole, hold identical positions on the basic problems of our time. Whether you take the strengthening of peace and independence of states, or the struggle against racism, colonialism and their modern modifications, the socialist and non-aligned countries stand side by side in the united army of the anti-imperialist front.

It is as a reflection of precisely this thought that one regards the Indian Premier's observation that the "Soviet Union has unfailingly extended principled support to the national struggle of Asian, African and Latin American peoples and has upheld the right of nations to follow their own policies.'

This coordination of efforts by the non-alignment movement and the socialist system for the sake of common goals covers a wide range of pressing problems. Work to establish a peace zone in the Indian Ocean and efforts to create a new world economic order are only two examples of the problems mentioned at the Kremlin Dinner.

Restructuring of international economic relations on the principles of justice is another major sphere of coordination between the main transforming forces of our time as represented by the national liberation movement and the socialist camp.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

INSCRUTABLE

"Dad, what is an inscrutable smile?"

"It's the kind, my son, your mother had on her face this morning when I told her that business might keep me out late to night."

BEST DEFENCE

In London, the War Office's 'British Army Journal' had some advice for civilians of the atomic age:

"The best defence today against the atmoic bomb is not to be there when it goes off."

* * *

LOVELY FUNERAL

"When I grow up," said the dear little film star to her mother, "I'll be able to look after you. I'm going to be a millionaire."

"Yes, dear."

"I'll be able to give you a lovely funeral," said the dear sittle girl.

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THE PERFECT ARTIST!

William Frith, the English painter, was chatting backstage in a theatre with a scene-shifter who said he himself had been a player in the provinces. In fact, he had played the part of "Amlet."

"Very interesting," said Mr. Frith. "Tell me—what is your conception of Hamlet's relation to Ophelia? Did he, so to speak, love her not wisely but too well?"

"I don't know, sir; if 'Amlet did," was the unblushing answer, "but I did."

* * *

PERTINENT QUERY

The conscientious father was dispensing advice to his son who was about to be married.

"Co-operation is the foundation of successful marriage," Pop said solemnly. "You must do things together. For instance, if your wife wants to go for a walk, go for a walk with her. If she wants to go to the movies, go to the movies with her. If she wants to do the dishes, do the dishes with her."

The Son listened dutifully, then asked, "Suppose she wants to mop the floor?"

* * *

INQUEST!

The lecturer was emphasizing the demoralizing effect of divorce.

"Love," he said, "is a quest; a proposal, a request; the giving of a daughter in marriage a bequest; and marriage itself the conquest. But what is divorce?"

Voice from the audience: "The inquest."

TOO FAST

Small children have a happy knack of seeing things whole and crystal clear. A father had taken his four-year-old son for a walk. Temporarily forgetting that his offspring's legs were considerably shorter than his own, he was remorsefully aware that the youngster was having some difficulty in making the grade.

"Am I walking too fast, Peter?" inquired the father, sympathetically dropping to half-speed.

"No, daddy," replied the infant, puffing breathlessly, "but I am."

* * *

IDEA!

The beautiful blonde behind the glove counter was idly polishing her nails, when a mildly distraught man rushed up to her and exclaimed: "I have lost my wife in this shop. Do you mind if I converse with you a little while?"

"For goodness sake!" the girl replied. "What good will that do?"

"Just wait and see," the man pleaded. "She is sure to turn up if I am talking to a pretty girl!"

She found him in three minutes!

* * *

THE CHOICE

"Godfrey asked me yesterday to marry him and make him the happiest man in the world."

"Which have you decided to do?"

Small Comfort

Every night around six, a tired-looking man used to board the 42nd Street trolley in New York—and each evening he would remark to the conductor that his feet hurt. One night the conductor asked him why he didn't buy another pair of shoes if the ones he had worn so long were uncomfortable.

"Well, it's this way," the man said. "I have so little in life. A year ago my wife has left me. My son is in jail. My daughter ran away from home. And the only comfort I have when I get home each night is to take off these shoes."

TAKING RISKS!

The church service was proceeding successfully, when an attractive young woman, who was seated in the balcony, became so excited that she leaned out too far and fell over the railing. Her dress caught in the chandelier, and she was suspended in mid-air. The minister noticed her undignified position and thundered to his congregation: "Any person who turns to look will be stricken stone blind"

A man whispered to his companion: "I'm going to risk one eye."

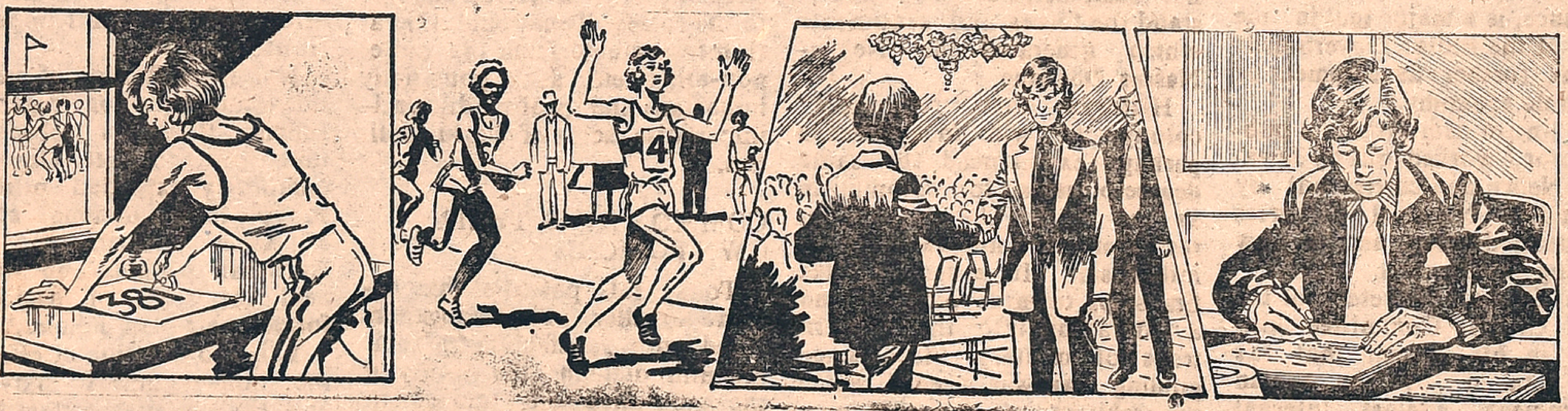
* * *

HER POWER

A woman was boasting to a friend that her husband had quit smoking. "My, that takes will power," said the friend.

"Indeed it does," agreed the wife, "and that's just what I've got."

Olympic Athletes

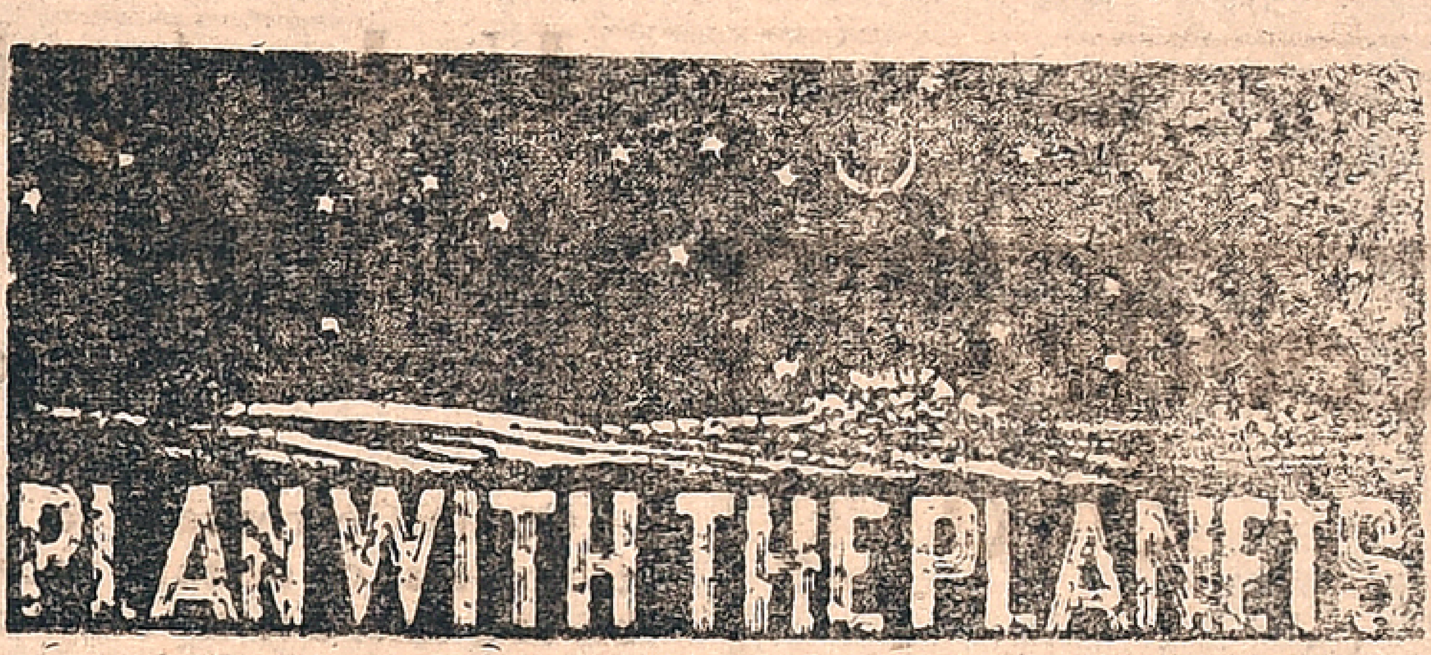


The turning point in Brendan Foster's career came in 1969 when he was at Sussex University. He wanted to run in the British Universities championship, but his university forgot to enter him. Undismayed, Foster noticed that the highest competitors number was 380—and ran in the race. He finished ninth.

Foster emerged in 1973 as one of Britain's main hopes for an Olympic gold in Montreal. He won the European Games 5,000 metres gold with a classic runaway victory in Athens, a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, and broke the British 1,500 and 5000 meters records.

His astonishing performances in that year gained him a world-wide reputation—and recognition from newspapermen and television viewers. He was elected BBC Television 'Sportsman of the Year' in 1974 and the British Athletic Writers' Association voted him "Athlete of the Year." The Television Award was presented to him by former World Motor Racing Champion Jackie Stewart.

Foster, aged 27, is managbr of sport and recreation for Gateshead in County Durham in the north of England. The job requires administrative skills and Fooster often finds himse behind a desk rather than on the sports fields.



For The Week 13th June To 19th June 1976

MESHA

YOU are approching favourable period. You should strive hard to achieve your plan. You can expect some relief in financial matters. Matters relating to family property should be handled properly to avoid further complications. Health require attention. Favourable days: 17th & 18th.

★

RISHABA

FAVOURABLE period. You should try to implement your plans. Financial postion will improve. Avoid friction with family members. And also avoid speculation. Health require attention. Business matters should be handled cautiously till the end of this month. Be prepared for unexpected developments on 13th & 14th.

★

MITHUNA

MILDLY favourable period. Financial matters will not be satisfactory. Family matters also should be handled properly to avoid further complications. Avoid speculative investments. Partnership matters require attention. You should not give any importance to the assurances given by associat s. And you should stick to your own plans. Avoid impulsive actions on 17th & 18th.

★

KATAKA

YOU will get some reli.f from pressure. But you are still under unfavourable planetary influence. It will take some more time to get complete relief. You may be finalising important partnership matters. Fianancial position will not be satisfactory. You should be patient and try to solve your problems. Favourable days ; 13th & 14th.

SIMHA

MILDLY favourable period. Financial transactions could be finalised. You can expect encouragement and support from your seniors. You should not be discouraged by the present conditions. You will be able to impelement your plans before the end of August. Favourable period : 15th & 16th.

★

KANYA

Favourable period. You should try to implement your plans as early as possible. You can also make changes in your business set up. If you are thinking of shifting your residence, you should start making arrangements now. Partnership matters could be finalised. Family matters should be handled properly to avoid further complication. Favourable days: 13th & 14th.

★

THULA

MILDLY favourable period. Partnership matters should be finalised. You should also try to develop foreign contacts. You may be undertaking a journey shortly. You should try to re-organise your business set-up to get maximum results. You can not expect much cooperation from your family members. Favourable days : 13th & 14th.

VRISCHIKA

YOU are slowly coming out of difficult period. But, you should be cautious in all your dealings for some more time. There will be improvement in financial position. But, you should avoid speculative investments. You should try to consolidate your present gains. You should be cautious in dealing with foreigners. Avoid visiting foreign countries for some more time. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

★

THANUS

MIXED results are indicated. You should be cautious in dealing with Government matters. You should also avoid legal complications. Partnership matters could be finalised. Financial position will not be satisfactory. You should not expect cooperation from your family members. Avoid long journeys unless necessary. Favourable days : 17th & 18th.

★

MAKARA

MILDLY favourable period. You should be able to make important changes in your working conditions. But you should handle partnership matters cautiously to avoid complications. Property matters could be finalised. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Health will improve. Favourable days : 18th & 19th.

★

KUMBA

MIXED results are indicated You will be making important changes regar.,ing partnership matters. But you should be cautious regarding legal implications. You will be making changes in working conditions. You should try to finalise all important business and family matters before the end of August. Favourable days : 13th & 14th.

★

MEENA

YOU are approaching better period. But you should be cautious in dealing with all important matters for sc me more time. You can expect cooperation from family members. You should also try to finalise partnership matters. Avoid speculative investments. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Health will improve. Favourable days : 15th & 16th.

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Brendan Foster

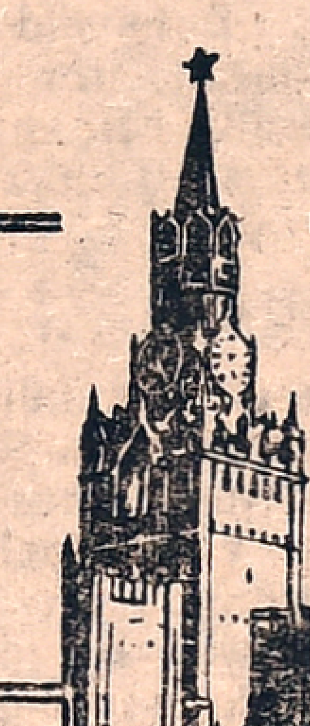
Once work is over, he discards his "city suit" for a tracksuit and trains with his club, Gateshead Harriers. He has a formidable legion of fans who follow him all over the world. They call him "Big Bren."

He rejected an offer to turn professional in the United States. The contract would have lined Foster's pockets for life but he turned it down. His reason ? "I felt I had a responsibility to the youngsters."

Foster's coach, Stan Long, was asked to give a talk on the athlete's training schedule to the European Coaches Conference early in 1975. How they managed to understand his Durham accent is still a mystery but coaches from a dozen countries gave him warm applause at the end.

Long leaves his welder's bench in Gateshead and meets Foster outside the factory gates for lunch time training sessions. The factory hooter announces Long's arrival and he appears in overall carrying a sandwich box –and a stop watch.

(To be Concluded)



Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

ROUSING RECEPTION TO MRS. INDIRA GANDHI IN MOSCOW

The spontaneous rousing reception given to Mrs. Indira Gandhi by the Soviet people on her arrival in the Soviet capital on Tuesday last was symbolic of USSR's deep friendship for India and its peoples.

She was received at the airport by Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mr. Alexei Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and other top-ranking Soviet leaders. The entire route from the Shermentovo airport to the Kremlin where Mrs. Indira Gandhi is staying was, crowded with cheering people, waving Soviet and Indian flags. Mrs. Gandhi plunged herself into talks with the Soviet leaders in the Kremlin, soon after her arrival.

The depth of the friendship that prevails between the two countries was reflected in the speeches of the two leaders on various occasions. Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech at a dinner stressed, "We highly value the constantly strengthening Soviet – Indian friendship and attach to it, I would say, a principled significance. We regard it as an embodiment of the inviolable friendship and unity of two great forces of our times–the world of socialism and the countries which have freed themselves from the colonial yoke and have embarked on the road of independent progressive development."

Mr. Brezhnev further added, that Soviet–Indian relations have become still stronger and were filled with new content.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi in one of her speeches said, "cooperation between our two countries is a striking example of how two peoples with differing political ideologies and socio-economic structures can work together for mutual welfare and progress. For our part we specially appreciate the quantum and scope of assistance from the Soviet Union, for it has enabled us to establish heavy industries in public sector and has reinforced our self-reliance. There has been a steady increase in the volume and range of our economic and commercial exchanges. Our friendship has withstood the test of time. The Indian people value the cooperation you have shown in our most difficult moments. The clear declaration by His Excellency General Secretary Brezhnev at the 25th Party Congress that political and economic cooperation with India is the Soviet Union's constant policy has drawn warm response from he Indian people."

Mrs. Gandhi's visit received the widest coverage in the mass media like press, radio and television. Indian songs have become regular feature in the Moscow Radio.

THEATRE ON THE TABLE-TOP

Myasum Alyautdinow is 27, shock-headed, lives in Moscow, is mad on electronics, works as a radio assembler, and goes to evening classes at the Institute of Electronics and Automation.

At one time he used to spend his spare time making radio-controlled model ships and yachts and tiny transistor radios.

Now he has made a model theatre which covers a table–top and is delighting visitors.

Most of the performers, whom he calls the Green Stars, are frogs, made from nine or ten caps from l monade bottles.

Their legs are moved by concealed magnets controlled by transistorised circuits, and they play the trumphee, fiddle, guitar, bass and percussion with tremendous gusto.

The instruments, desks and chairs are also made of bottle caps and wire, and the "singers" of anything that comes to hand.

Myasum is now building up a second show, to be called Screen Stars.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR'

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Tjina Karu, whom nearly all Estonian papers picked as the republic's "woman of International Women's year".

I wanted to know why.

Tjina finished school with top marks; went to Tartu University and graduated with an honours degree in chemistry; won the YOL prize for research in kinetics; joined the Soviet Communist Party; and heads the Estonian Council for Young Scientist's Exact Sciences Commission.

And she still found time to fall in love, get married (her husband is an economic cybernetics expert) and have a baby girl, now four.

And I've left lots out.

As a postgraduate Tjina went to Moscow for advance-studies at the Oncological Institute.

There she worked with famous scientists on cancer-producing substances secreted by living tissues, found in the air, soil and chemical processes.

She is now junior research associate at the Estonian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Physics.

She is fond of travel, and once used to go on organised ski-ing trips to the Carpathians and Karelia, and has also visited Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia and Hungary.

"But now," she told me, "I just travel. I meet more people that way".

Was she pleased with the recognition of her work ?

"No, nor with recognition—with the work itself", she replied.

But she'll have to put up with the recognition, she deserves it.

Understanding That Goes A Long Way

— CEEARKE —

COMMON concern to make the process of detente irreversible and extend it to other areas of the globe, mutual appreciation of each other's position regarding various international issues, stress on the need to further deep n the close cooperation and friendship between the two countries is the key note of the bilateral talks that are going on in Moscow between leaders of India and USSR. The same warmth which was seen on the arrival of Mrs. Gandhi the other day in Moscow prevails in the continuing talks, which one can confidently say would put the relations between the two countries on a new higher level.

The pace for the talks was set in the speeches made by Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Brezhnev at the state banquet held in the Kremlin.

While Mrs. Gandhi in her speech paid glowing tributes to the various moves for peace and cooperation initiated personally by General Secretary Mr. Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders in recent years, Mr. Brezhnev in turn highly appreciated India's policy of non-alignment and its various steps to normalise relations in the South Asia region.

On the question of detente both leaders expressed identical views. "India welcomes and appreciates detente, even though currently it seems to be under strain. The need is to stabilise, strengthen and extend this process to other parts of the globe so that it becomes irreversible", Mrs. Gandhi said. "We clearly see these negative phenomena and are fully determined to oppose them. The development and deepening of the relaxation of tension is the call of the time this is a demand of all peoples prompted by their vital interests in durable peace", Mr. Brezhnev said.

Soviet and Indian peoples are particularly happy about the categorical statement of Mr. Brezhnev reiterating Soviet Union's stand in regard to Indian Ocean. "We have unambiguously stated that the Soviet Union has not had and does not have intention to build military bases in the Indian Ocean. We have called upon the United States to act likewise and expect its clear answer", said Mr. Brezhnev. This undoubtedly will draw appreciation from other littoral states also.

On the question of promoting peace and stability in Asia both leaders share common understanding. Mrs. Gandhi who made a brief survey of the situation in Asia had this to say: "The Soviet Union genuinely wants peaceful cooperation, mutual understanding and good neighbourliness between the countries of Asia. It is not only a great power but one with a large Asian component in its personality. Both our countries thus have common interest in promoting stability and harmony in Asia". Mr. Brezhnev in turn assurad, "the Soviet Union intends to further actively participate in searching for the ways to solve the urgent problems of the Asian continent. We will support any proposals promoted by the concern for peace and security in Asia, including their ensurance through the joint efforts of Asian States".

This understanding will go a long way in concretising to evolve measures in the direction of ensuring peace and stability in Asia: Both India and Soviet Union could play an important role in this.

On the question of strengthening the relations between the two countries, the pronouncements of the two leaders expresses the mood and determination of the two countries.

"Our friendship has withstood the test of time.... The foundations, on which the edifice of Indo-Soviet cooperation is built, remain solid and stable. We shall continue to strengthen it", said Mrs. Gandhi.

"Soviet Union was, is and remains a reliable friend of India and Indian people. We are convinced that through the common efforts of the peoples of our countries much, very much can be done for mankind's peace and progress" declared Mr. Brezhnev.

CIENCE NEWS

Synthetic "Metal"

A new type of synthetic material which has no metal atoms but has the characteristics of metal has been produced by scientists of the University of Pennsylvania Materials Research Laboratory. They say this substance may be the forerunner of a new series of synthetic metals. Such synthetic metals are of great scientific interest because they might be chemically altered to fit a variety of possible future applications.

The new synthetic metal consists of thin layers of electrically conducting polymeric sulphur nitrate. Polymeric sulphur nitrate is made by joining huge numbers of sulphur and nitrogen atoms, arranged alternately in a chain. The atoms will form a fibre-like substance which can be flatten d under great pressure into thin sheets like metal.

One remarkable characteristic of the synthetic metal is that it allows visible light to pass through it fairly easily—but when the metal sheet is turned ninety degrees, it reflects most of the light, letting through only a small portion of it. Scientists believe this characteristic of the material will make it suitable for use in optical communications systems where it is necessary to convert light into electric current.

The new synthetic metal should be inexpensive to manufacture because its basic ingredients are readily available. And, according to the University of Pennsylvania scientists, "for certain specialized uses, synthetic metals may one day replace ordinary metals, just as synthetic fibres, like nylon have partly replaced naturally occuring fibres, like silk and cotton."

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Retarded Speech Programme

A highly successful programme has been developed to help severely retarded children communicate with others. It has also helped them feed and dress themselves. Dr. Joseph Carrier of the University of Kansas who worked out the new system has taught almost 200 of these youngsters how to communicate without speech. They use what he calls the "non-*Slip*" system. This is a simplified language with a starting vocabulary of thirty words Some, of the children have even 'graduated' from the programme and can now speak simple sentences.

The children are taught to pick out the correct cardboard symbol from a collection of them, and place it on a tray. On purpose, the symbols do not look like the things they represent. For example, when shown the drawing of a bed, they must pick out a bell-shaped symbol. The idea is to show that words themselves are acstract symbols for things. When a right choice is made, the c ild is rewarded with a hug, praise, or candy. Wrong selections are ignored. After learning to make sentences, they learn to say aloud what they have said in symbols.

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Muscular Dystrophy Clue

A new laboratory advance may one day help doctors slow the advance of muscular dystro phy. In tests with lab-cultured cells, scientists at Downstate Medical Centre in New York City have succeeded in stopping the tissue deterioration that is characteristic of the muscle disease. They point out that their success marks the first time that some substance has slowed the degeneration of dystrophic muscle cells. There presently is no known treatment for the muscle-wasting ailment.

The researchers were able to grow normal as well as dystrophic muscle cells from chicken embryos. Certain enzymes are found in very high levels in people and animals with the disease. Many scientists believe the excess enzymes digest muscle cells in muscular dystrophy. In tests with a variety of substances, they found some that could block the action of the enzymes. Tests in chickens and mice will be run before the new approach is tried on humans.

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Women And Heart Attack

A major long-term study has confirmed that women have a lower risk of heart attacks and strokes than men. The reason for this lower risk is believed to be the difference in hormones in the sexes. This feminine benefit exists in all age groupings, although it becomes a little less pronounced in women after the so-called change of life.

These conclusions come from the Framingham study, a research project in which residents of that city in the State of Massachusetts have been watched and examined for almost twenty years. The object of the study is to figure out what is contributing to the development of heart and blood vessel diseases. The study found that heart attacks in young women are rare and occur at only a small fraction of the rate for men of the same age. And when men and women of the same age group have the same combination of other risk factors, such as high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and the cigarette habit, women were always at lower risk.

Mitochondria, D-N-A Cancer

More than forty years ago, Nobel Prize winner Otto Warburg proposed that cancer is caused when the mitochondria, the so-called powerhouses inside cells of most living organisms, are damaged. Warburg's idea was studied—but abandoned. Now the American Chemical Society reports that Dr. Herbert Hadler of Southern Illinois University says he has new evidence that the controversial hypothesis is correct after all. The theory ties the initiation of cancer by either chemicals or viruses to the same ultimate pathway.

The present theory suggests that carcinogenic chemicals or their metabolites interact directly with the genetic material, D-N-A. Dr. Hadler sees a more circuitous mechanism. He agrees the D-N-A is altered, but not directly. Instead, he says, the carcinogens damage the mitochondria, causing them to release a primitive form of D-N-A which then disrupts the normal D-N-A. Dr. Hadler bases his conclusions on studies of several known carcinogens—chloramphenicol, arsenicals and cadmium ion, and the pesticide Rotenone.

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Drop In Pollution Deaths

Researchers are taking a closer look at the drop in death rate from respiratory diseases in a number of major United States cities. They note that at the same time that this mortality has been dropping, concentrations of certain air-borne pollutents such as sulphur dioxide have also been steadily decreasing.

J.D. Dumelle of the Illinois Pollution Control Board says that in the first five-year period since the Federal Clear Air Act was passed in 1970, Chicago's death rate decreased by about twenty-two people a day. But it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions because the environmental situation is complex and there is a serious lack of data. So, researchers are now compiling statistics on population shifts and weather, as well as pollution. Studies are planned for Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Chicago.

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Key To Nitrogen Fixation

As energy grows more costly, so do nitrogen fertilisers. This, of course, has stimulated interest in learning how nature puts nitrogen into the soil through bacterial action. One puzzling fact is that the ability of the nitrogen fixing bacteria Rhizobia, for example, to form a symbiotic relationship with legumes is highly selective. Rhizobia will fix nitrogen with peas—but not soybeans or jack beans.

Scientists studying nitrogen fixation have been working to understand the molecular basis of the specificity.

Research by Dr. Peter Albersheim and Jack Wolpert of the University of Colorado at Boulder show that certain proteins called lectins appear to be a key. The lectins also seems to have hitherto unknown enzymic properties in that they apparently cleave polysaccharides. If the preliminary findings are proven correct, the discovery may aid in understanding several biological processes.

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Cold Compress Eases Pain And Promotes Healing

Cryopac is a first aid pressure device that applies a cold compress to an injury to relieve pain and promote healing. It is made by Cryomed Devices Inc, in Princeton, New Jersey. Since accurate cold is maintained at approximately 36 degrees fahrenheit (2.2 degrees centigrade), there is no danger of frostbite.

The temperature is maintained constant as long as the refrigerant, *Cryogen* remains in the element, and is stored under pressure in cans until injected into the *Cryopac* at the time of appiicationto an injury.

The cold treatment constricts capillaries, thus retarding the formation of edema and hematoma. It is supplied in a portable kit, and is useful in initial treatment of sports injuries as well as industrial injuries.

COSTLY LANGUAGE !

A son at college sent his mother an itemized list of his expenses along with a request for additional check. The mother complained to her best friend that the expenses were just terrible: "And look," she said, "it's the languages that cost the most—Scotch, 50 dollars !"

* * *

NOT INTERESTED

The parson is explaining the Story of the Creation.

Jimmy, raising his hand : "My father says that we all come from monkeys."

Parson,: gently, "My boy, I am not the least bit interested in your family affairs."

* * *

SILENCED

Wife in Court : "The argument we had was to my liking. It lasted for hours."

Husband (in evidence) : "I have yet to experience one of the four freedoms."

* * *

FOUR TYPES

The young artist kissed his model : 'I bet you do that to all your models," she said.

"No", he said, "you are the first."

'How many models have you had ?"

"Four," he answered, "A rose, an onion, a banana, and you.'

Regd. No. M. 4181

Film News And Reviews

Mayor Meenakshi: K. R. Vijaya Excels

K. R. Vijaya, as the sweeper woman who becomes the Mayor of the City, excels in Abirami Movies' colour film "Mayor Meenakshi" presented by Ashok Brothers. She has bagged the acting honours easily.

The good Mayor of the City (T.K. Bhagavathi) is ousted by the manoeuvring of an evil minded person (V.K. Ramaswami) who aspires to ascend the Mayoral 'Gadi.' Meenakshi (K.R. Vijaya), who supports him initially without knowing his real intentions realises her folly soon. With a vengeance she works her way up to become the Mayor herself. Her simple living even after acquiring power, doing her duties as a sweeper woman evokes sympathy and admiration.

Jaisankar as the slum dweller is good. Cho as the English tutor is adequate. Manorama, 'Thengai' Srinivasan, and Surilirajan are also in the cast.

Madurai Thirumaran, apart from writing the dialogues, has directed the film.

"O....Manju!" Is Novel

Chitrodaya's colour Tamil offering 'O...Manju!' is an unusual movie.

Director Sridhar has narrated the story in a novel way. It is an experiment—a costly one.

The nebulous state of mind of an adolescent rich girl, who chance to come across some pornographic literature has been well expressed by the newfind heroine Kavita. Sekar's portrayal as the boy who goes out with Manju on an outing is good.

An important feature of this film is that there are no obscene or unwanted fighting sequences. Though about a 'touchy' problem, it is a clean film.

The music by M. S. Viswanathan is not up to the standard.

The pleasing photography is a plus point. The comic sequences involving 'Thengai' Srinivasan, I. S. R. 'Typist' Gopu add lustre to it.

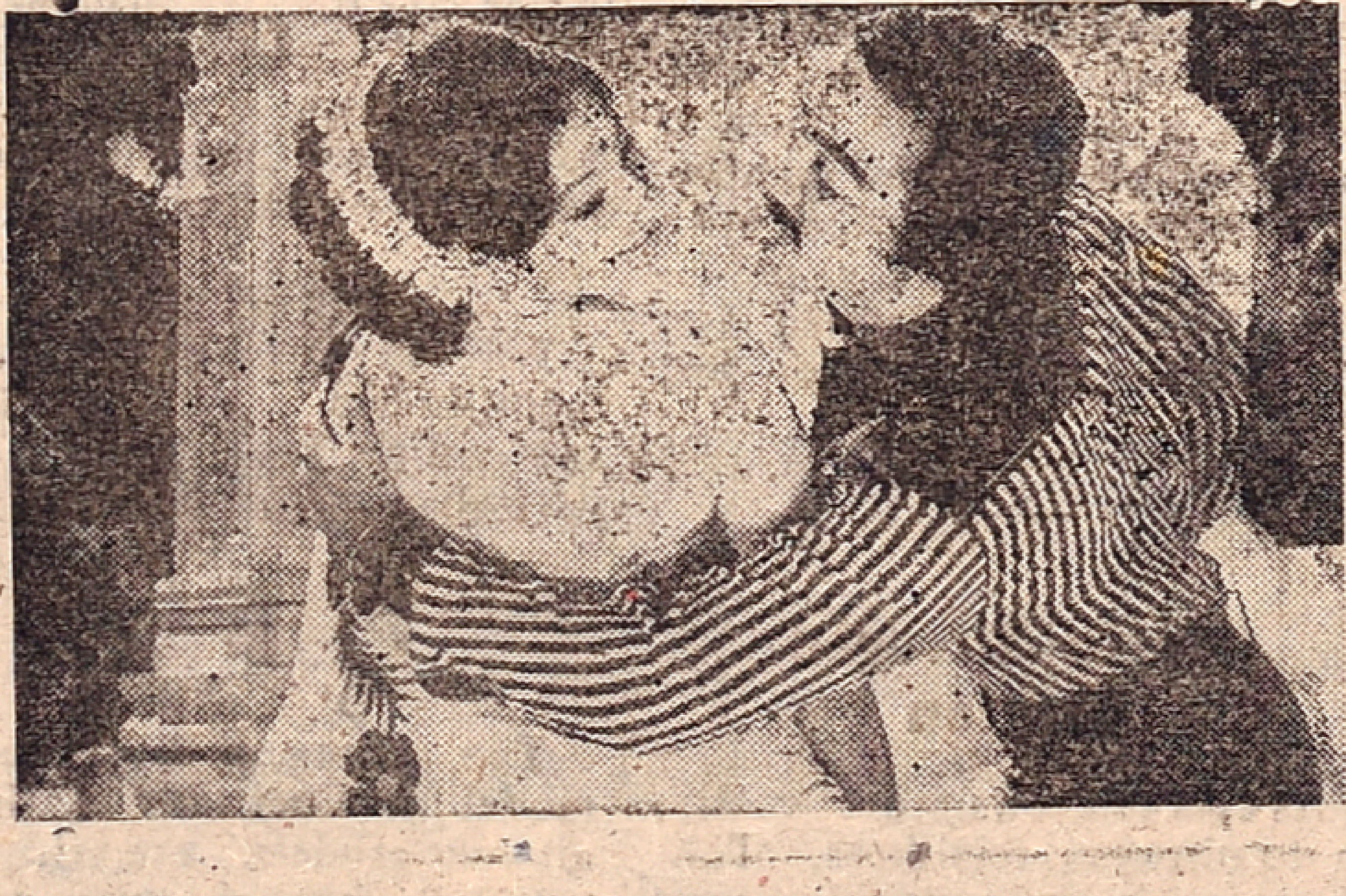
Will our cine goers support this type of experimental films?

Arun Prasad's New Venture

Devaraj and Mohan are directing the latest untitled movie produced by Arun Prasad Movies. The cast of the film includes Vijayakumar, Sripriya, Y.G. Mahendra, Shakila, Manorama, Lakshmisri, K A. Thangavelu and Govindaraj. Balamurugan writes the story and dialogue. M.S. Viswanathan looks after music and Kannadasan provides the lyrics.

Ban On Romeo And Juliet!

The Censorship Department of the Brazilian Ministry of Justice banned the showing on March 28 of the Soviet TV version of Sergei Prokofiev's ballet "Romeo and Juliet". This film was televised in more than 100 countries to mark the 200th anniversary of the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre. In Brazil it was replaced by an American bedroom farce, "Jornal do Brasil".



Jayachitra and Kamalahasan in 'Kumarasambavam'

The Desert An...

By K. PARTHASARATHY
(Poet & Literary Critic)

The men in their tents saw the crescent rise,
The endless desert around, did sicken their spirits;
But the crescent did lift their hearts heavenwards,
A strange peace breathed in the desert air.
The emptiness of the desert haunted the men,
The endless sand dunes, sing man's mocked hour of pride;
An hour past, the desert wakes to the wild winds,
The silvery sands leap to the skies,
Man, his tent and camel, sand swept, Alas!
Man, deep in his heart's desert, himself buried.

A FAIRY TALE

The Fox And The Woodcock

A woodcock was perching in a tree. Up came a fox and said:

"Hello, little woodcock, my dear friend. The moment I heard your sweet voice, I came along to see how you're doing."

"How nice of you," said the woodcock.

The fox pretended she hadn't heard and said:

"What did you say? Can't hear. My dear woodcock, won't you come down here to the nice grass, and we'll have a stroll and a chat? I can't hear you from the tree."

The woodcock said:

"I'm afraid to come down ont to the grass. It's dangerous for us birds to walk on the ground."

"Perhaps you're afraid of me?"

"Not just you, I'm afraid of other animals, too," said the woodcock. "There are all sorts of animals about."

"No, my dear woodcock, there's law these days, whereby peace rules all over the world. Nowadays animals never harm one another."

"I hope so," said the woodcock, "because here come some dogs. If it were like before, you'd have to run away, but as it is you've got nothing to be afraid of."

Hearing dogs mentioned, the fox pricked up her ears, and prepared to run off.

"Where are you off to then?" said the woodcock. "Isn't there a law now that the dogs won' harm you?"

"You can't tell with dogs," said the fox, "May be they haven't heard about the law."

And off she ran.

The Wisest of The Wise

"Wisest among the wisemen" ...This is the title obtained by Venitian masseur Yogan Herster. Giving the impression that he lives in the world not for one century but have seen many in various centuries, the "Wisest of the Wise" began to blackmail one Mr. Alois Resh. Herster asserted that he was witness to the crime done by Resh in his 'previous birth'. 'At that time you strangled your brother in Tibetian Monastery" mystically he told the 82-year old rich man. 'This happened 640 years back, God has not forgiven you..." Mr. Resh, a believer in God, begged him to help him for getting atonement of his sin. Herster 'correcrly' calculated that 'atonement' requires the murderer to pay 438,418 dollars and 2 cents. The blackmailer told that he personally would hand over he money to the monastry. However he was defeated! Frightened Resh accepted his 'crime' before the Austrian court and 'the cases was considered and to the surprise of Resh 'the wisest of wisemen' got two years imprisonment.

Also Records

Israel and Rhodesia lead the world in the rate of divorce. According to the 1974 figures, there is one divorce for every three weddings in Israel. In Rhodesia, the ratio (among the white) is 1.3.5. According to Mr. C. Harries, Vice-Chairman of the Marriage Guidance Society, "Rhodesia is now heading for the lead in the world divorce rates." The reason for that, he says, is economic instability aggravated by the conditions of factual military regime and the influx of adventurers who are in a haste to get married.

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